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The style of writing is as a rule simple and clear, but occasionally it is neither. Several slips of statement and a few other indications of carelessness were noted. One cannot say that the author has realized her desire to present a "final and truthful estimate" of Jones's life and character (I. xii). There is still needed a briefer and more critical biography of this officer and a well-edited edition of his most important correspondence.

C. O. PAULLIN.

*An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution of the United States.* By CHARLES A. BEARD, Associate Professor of Politics, Columbia University. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1913. Pp. vii, 330.)

PROFESSOR BEARD states frankly that this study of the Federal Constitution is fragmentary, but his reason for its publication is the hope of influencing others to turn their attention from "barren political history" to the more fruitful field of economic "forces which condition great movements in politics". With this purpose most students will sympathize and turn hastily to the succeeding pages.

Here one finds an interesting chapter on historical interpretation in the United States in which our schools of history are classified and compared to similar schools in Europe. Then follows an analysis of the economic forces and groups in the thirteen disunited states of 1787. These economic groups are the "disfranchised", the "real property holders", and the "personal property interests". Thus the method of the work is distinctly foreshadowed. The movement for the Constitution, Property Safeguards in the Election of Delegates, and Economic Interests of the Members of the Convention are the titles of other important chapters. The distinct contribution of the work is chapter V. in which the personal and financial interests of all the "framers" are given with much detail. To know who dealt in securities in 1787 to 1789 and what the economic bearings of the propositions which came before the convention were is very important, for our generation wants to know the "connections" of its public men.

But the remaining chapters are also informing—those which treat of political doctrines of 1787 and the process of ratification, which shows the purposes of powerful men of that day. Two things, however, escape Professor Beard's search—two apparently minor points on which light might be given: why was Franklin defeated in his campaign for the Pennsylvania ratifying convention and why did Washington decline to "stand" for the Virginia convention? Stone and McMaster say that Franklin was a candidate of the opposition party in his state. We know he was to have been put forward originally as president of the convention of 1787, but that Robert Morris and the banker group deserted him for Washington at the critical moment. And we know also from McRee's *Life and Correspondence of James Iredell* (II. 223) that Washing-

ton was considered for a while as a candidate before the voters of Fairfax for the Virginia convention but that he withdrew. Was there a "deal" before the meeting of the Philadelphia convention between low-country Virginians and the Philadelphia bankers whereby the discussion was to be guided into safe and sane paths? These are questions which frequently arise when one consults the contemporary sources. It may not be possible to answer them.

It remains to say that this "fragment" of a book is exceedingly stimulating, that this use of the mass of Treasury manuscripts to which the author has had access has whetted the appetite for other studies of this kind and given rise to the hope that we shall one day understand the political philosophy of the makers of our national Constitution and be able at the same time to appreciate the hostility of a majority of the people of that period to both the "Fathers" and their Constitution. Without entering here upon that interesting question of historical method and interpretation it can be said that the author has certainly succeeded beyond the promises of his preface. He has looked beneath the surface of things and brought to light many new facts, or old facts long overlooked.

WILLIAM E. DODD.

*The Cotton Manufacturing Industry of the United States.* By MELVIN THOMAS COPELAND, Ph.D., Instructor in Commercial Organization, Harvard University. [Harvard Economic Studies, vol. VIII.] (Cambridge: Harvard University. 1912. Pp. xii, 415.)

STRICTLY speaking, Dr. Copeland's book is not an historical work. There is a short chapter which deals with the growth of cotton manufacturing before 1860 and here and there in the volume short excursions are made into the history of the industry, but, in the main, the work is descriptive in character and is intended to acquaint the reader with the present status of the American cotton industry and to afford a comparison between the American and European methods of manufacturing and organization. The subjects dealt with are the geographical distribution of the factories, the technique of cotton manufacturing, labor conditions and wages, specialization and consolidation, marketing conditions, and the export and import trade in cotton goods.

One of the important conclusions reached by the author is that the Southern States have little, if any, permanent advantage over New England for the manufacture of cotton goods. The advantage which they have hitherto enjoyed is that of cheap labor but in the South the supplies of cheap labor no longer respond to the demand and neither the negro nor the immigrant seems to be attracted to the cotton mills. Henceforth it is probable that the New England manufacture will grow as rapidly as that in the South.

A comparison of American with English conditions leads to the con-